

**Amended Electrical Contractor Licensing Code of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, TN – Explanation of Changes by Ordinance # BL2013-570**

An ordinance amending and restating Title 6, Chapter 6.20, Articles I and IV (the Electrical Contractor Licensing Code) of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville/Davidson County was passed by Metro Council and became law on November 20, 2013. The ordinance was co-sponsored by 30 Metro Council members. The ordinance will become effective one hundred eighty days after the date of signature, i.e. May 20, 2014.

Basic changes in the law, as amended, are as follows:

- The ordinance creates three (3) new licensing categories: journeyman electrician, apprentice electrician, and beginning electrician.
- **Metropolitan beginning electrician** – defined as an individual who has no prior electrical experience, is enrolled in an electrician apprenticeship program, and works under the immediate direction and supervision of a master or journeyman electrician. No more than five beginning electricians could be on a job site for every one master or journeyman electrician present.
- **Metropolitan apprentice electrician** – defined as an individual who is enrolled in an apprenticeship program registered with the U. S. Department of Labor or any nationally accredited apprenticeship program and consist of, at a minimum, 8,000 hours of documented practical experience combined with a minimum of 600 hours of classroom and/or shop instruction, and works under the supervision of a master or journeyman electrician.
- **Metropolitan journeyman electrician** – to be classified as a journeyman electrician and obtain a license, the individual would have to meet one of the following criteria:
  - (1) passed the journeyman examination and obtained a journeyman license from the metropolitan board of electrical examiners and appeals ;
  - (2) successfully completed an electrical construction apprenticeship; or
  - (3) be regularly employed as a journeyman and work under the supervision of an electrical contractor or master electrician.
- All applicants for an electrician license, other than for a beginner or apprenticed license, would be required to furnish proof that they had at least five (5) years' experience in the classification applied for or the classification immediately below the classification applied for.
- The ordinance adds a provision to the code requiring the board of electrical examiners and appeals to revoke or suspend the license of a master electrician who knowingly obtains a permit

for work to be done by persons who are not licensed or who does not personally supervise the work.

- The ordinance adds a provision making it a misdemeanor for anyone to do electrical work **for** which an electrical permit is required without a valid electrician's license or to allow another person to use the license. The ordinance requires that everyone engaged in electrical work shall be licensed by the Metropolitan Board of Electrical Examiners and Appeals or registered by the Department of Codes & Building Safety -- the one exception is for individuals employed by a registered equipment contractor and performing electrical equipment installations under the supervision of a licensed electrical equipment installer need not be individually licensed as an electrician.
- The ordinance also includes a provision stating that the names of all license holders would be available to the public, which would clarify that such information is a public record.
- This ordinance does not apply to any person holding a valid State of Tennessee license since the state license supersedes the local Metro license. A "state issued" license is required for any job of \$25,000 or greater. Metro Codes has no control or regulatory authority over the licenses issued by the state.
- This ordinance does not apply to any person already employed as an electrician or engaged in the electrician business at the time of enactment of this ordinance (November 20, 2013) who was not otherwise required to be licensed under Chapter 6.20 of the Metropolitan Code.

The Department of Codes & Building Safety is in the process of preparing administrative procedures for recommendation to the Metro Electrical Examiners and Appeals Board at their next meeting to be held on January 28, 2014.